

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

August 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 17, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Judith Lundsten was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

The unaudited standing of accounts as of June 30, 2015, was submitted for School Committee review. It was noted that we anticipate adding about \$150,000 to our fund balance at the end of FY15, which is mostly due to the increased savings in salaries, heating fuel, electricity, substitute pay, and health insurance premiums. The overages in supplies and materials, textbooks, and furniture and fixtures come from expenses that were authorized by the superintendent because of the surplus we were projecting at year end. A motion (Connor, Hall) to accept the unaudited finance report through June 30, 2015, carried with 5-0.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that she walked through the building with Scott Nelson earlier today. The floors look great, several classrooms have been painted, and construction materials for the roof have been delivered. The roofing project should begin on Monday, August 31 provided Mr. Barboza can get his vehicles over on August 30 or 31. This project can be completed in four days provided the weather is good. The drywall repair can be done over a weekend if necessary.

An issue has developed with the LED lighting project. The installation of the burner booster system was not funded and the cost for that is approximately \$6,000-\$7,000. There are several ways to cover this cost, including asking the leasing company to adjust the lease over the three years, pay the total amount and make a balloon payment, or include it in a capital request from the Rhode Island Department of Education under the new building authority. There is \$20 million set aside for the 2015-16 school year. The approved programs will be on a fast track that can get done in six to eight months and completely funded by RIDE. Mrs. Lundsten is fairly confident that we have all the information needed to apply for these funds. Committee members thought applying to RIDE would be the best solution. If the funds aren't forthcoming payment options can be reassessed.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that on Tuesday, August 11 Governor Raimondo launched Rhode Island's school construction initiative including new funding mechanisms. For the fiscal year 2016 state budget, the General Assembly lifted the moratorium on school construction, established the School Building Authority (SBA) and an SBA Advisory board, and created a new mechanism for funding school construction, including renovations. These changes have created

new criteria as well as processes, timelines, and approvals which may have some implications for our current projects. Mrs. Lundsten will contact RIDE to see whether we need to resubmit our application.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy FBF-2: Dual Enrollment as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Chris Warfel was present to address and answer questions the committee had regarding the solar panel project. In a memo he wrote to the Planning Board, he suggested a change to the 508 WECS Ordinance, which currently allows only wind turbines. Mr. Warfel feels that specifying only wind energy limits other alternative energy technologies. He would also like the Faulkner property included in the educational zone. He has reviewed the Falkner deed and the restrictions include no windmills, towers, or structures with a height in excess of 35 feet. Mr. Warfel will submit a plan to the building official to see if there are additional issues that need to be addressed. School Committee members were reluctant to tie up the Faulkner property as there are many good suggestions for its use and they wondered if the town would allow us to put the solar panels there if it wouldn't impact future uses. Other possible locations mentioned were north of the medical center and the Thomas property. Mr. Warfel will review those properties/areas.

New Business

Susan Gibbons, Kate Butcher, and Kristine Monje were present to discuss the field trip for the tenth grade students that is being planned with The Nature Conservancy. Those involved in the planning are recommending that "Further A-Field" become part of the science curriculum and a yearly trip, although the destinations could change in the coming years. It is hoped that the students and two chaperones will be able to spend a week in St. Croix working with Chris Littlefield at the end of January 2016. Students would participate in scheduled cultural and natural history explorations throughout the island with local guides. They would benefit from cultural and work immersion in a diverse, but safe environment by assisting with whatever is going on at the time and organized through TNC St. Croix. The estimated cost per student is \$1650 with each student/family paying approximately \$750. Scholarship funding would be available for those in need. There will be a meeting with parents as soon as school starts to explain the trip. School Committee members were enthusiastic about the trip and requested an update at the October meeting.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept with regret the resignation of Mark Mollicone as the technology education teacher effective immediately carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept with regret the resignation of Laura Johnson as a middle grades teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Amy Marcille as a part-time occupational therapist provided her compensation is not more than the other OT's carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Patrick Wygant as the secondary social studies teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Connor, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Tracy Rusch as the secondary math teacher for the 2015-16 school year only carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The Back to School Breakfast is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2 at the 1661 Inn. The next regular School Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 21.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Joseph da Silva at RIDE notifying us that our Stage II application for immediate health and safety repairs was approved.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:35 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: September 21, 2015